The following provides a brief description of the MODIS Level 3 HDF mapped file naming conventions from products produced by the NASA Ocean Biology Processing Group (OBPG) and a site description for the
PO.DAAC public FTP server.

MODIS Ocean Level 3 mapped SST filename convention

The MODIS Aqua Level 3 mapped daily files have names such as:
'A2005360.L3m_DAY_SST_4.bz2'
'A2005360.L3m_DAY_NSST_4.bz2'
'A2005360.L3m_DAY_SST4_4.bz2'
'A2005360.L3m_DAY_NSST_9.bz2'

The filenames represent the following:

A2005360	:	MODIS Aqua for YYYYDDD
.L3m	:	Level 3 mapped file
_DAY	:	Daily file
_SST	:	SST produced with the 11/12 um channels (daytime)
_NSST	:	SST produced with the 11/12 um channels (nighttime)
_SST4	:	SST produced with the 4 um channels (nighttime)
_4	:	4.7 km resolution
_9	:	9.2 km resolution
.bz2	:	compressed with bzip2

The weekly (8day), monthly and annual files have the following delimiters in
place of _DAY:
_8D, _MO, _YR

Additionally, these files have a data range that specifies the averaging period. For example:

A20040012004008.L3m_8D_SST_4.bz2

indicates a 4km 8 day file averaged over the period 1-8 Jan 2004.

MODIS Terra files are identical to the Aqua filename format except they have a 'T' in the first character position.

PO.DAAC FTP site description for MODIS mapped data

On the PO.DAAC FTP site the data are organized in a directory structure by
SST_algorithm/temporal_resolution/spatial_resolution/year/year_day/

Thus a typical directory may look like:

'data/terra/L3_mapped/sst/daily/04km/2000/321' for the thermal IR products
or
'data/aqua/L3_mapped/sst4/daily/04km/2000/321' for the mid-IR products

For example, each daily directory will contain daytime and nighttime
data files for a particular SST algorithm of all product designations

For the weekly products, the year day designation refers to the
beginning of the 8 day period over which the mean product is
derived. The monthly product is identical.